

NSC BRIEFING ,

15 January 1959

QASIM ANNOUNCEMENT

I. Premier Qasim, in an official statement on 14 January, possibly acting under prodding from the army, warned the Communist-dominated Popular Resistance Force and the Iraqi Students Union against further violation of general security and peace, and reminded them that they were authorized to act only under emergency conditions specified by the military authorities and on orders issued by such authorities.

A. If warning backed up by army, this first indication Qasim may act to curb spread of Communist influence.

B. PRF and Students Union are civilian groups most capable altering events in Iraq by violence.

C. Initial CPI reaction can only be gauged by fact Communist-line and left wing press did not publish Qasim announcement.

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